Kearsley Urban District Council

HEALTH
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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

1955

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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health
R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H

Sanitary Inspector ... ... F. BROOK, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk ... ... Mrs. J. CROMPTON.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

To the Chairman and Members of the Kearsley Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit the Annual Report on the health of the District, together with the Sanitary Inspector's Report for the year 1955.

There is little change in the vital statistics compared with those of preceding years, and cases of infectious disease have been few and of little account, with the exception, perhaps, of the one incidence of Typhoid Fever. This case made an uninterrupted recovery, without any other case occurring.

During the next five or more years, it is hoped that all the old housing properties in Kearsley will be demolished, under the Government's Slum Clearance Programme. This is long overdue and though the term " slum " does not apply to this district, there are many old houses which have long since served their purpose.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, will enable more stringent precautions to be taken in the sale and preparation of food.

I am grateful for the encouragement and help given to me by Members of the Council, and for the loyal co-operation of the Health Department staff.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

AREA—1,720 statute acres (approx.).

POPULATION—Estimated June, 1955—10,460.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	TOTAL	Males	Females
Births:			
Legitimate	110	64	46
Illegitimate	2	1	1
Still Births:			
Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	NIL	—	—

	Kearsley	England & Wales
Birth Rate per 1,000 population ...	10.7	15.0
Still Births per 1,000 total birth	18.0	23.1

	TOTAL	Males	Females
Deaths	146	71	75

	Kearsley	England & Wales
Death Rate per 1,000 population (adjusted)	15.1	11.7

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth NIL

Death of Infants under one year of age:

	TOTAL	Males	Females
Legitimate	NIL	—	—
Illegitimate	NIL	—	—

	Kearsley	England & Wales
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 related births	0.00	24.9

	Total
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	26
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1955

Cancer	26
Heart Diseases	45
Other Circulatory Diseases	7
Bronchitis	17
Other diseases of respiratory system	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2
Congenital Malformations	1
Suicide	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	24
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1
All other accidents	7
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7
Total	146

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following is a list of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year 1955:—

Disease	*No.*
Acute Poliomyelitis	1
Typhoid Fever	1
Scarlet Fever	4
Whooping Cough	10
Dysentery	12
Erysipelas	2
Measles	137
Pneumonia (all forms)	9
Food Poisoning	9

Cases removed to Hospital from the district:—

Scarlet Fever	1
Poliomyelitis	1
Typhoid Fever	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	3

Tuberculosis—Cases notified:—

Respiratory	3
Non-Respiratory	2

The treatment of all cases of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council.

FOOD POISONING.

During the year there were nine cases of Food Poisoning reported.

INFANTILE PARALYSIS.

There was one case of Acute Poliomyelitis reported during the year, but the diagnosis was not confirmed on laboratory examination. Recovery was complete and uneventful.

TYPHOID FEVER.

There was one case of Typhoid Fever reported during the year.

SCARLET FEVER.

Four cases of Scarlet Fever were reported during the year, three of which were nursed at home. There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA.

For the ninth year in succession there were no cases of Diphtheria.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The bacteriological examination of sputum is undertaken by the Lancashire Tuberculosis Committee.

The bacteriological examination of milk samples and water samples and of pathological specimens is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The installation of grit extractors at the British Electricity Authority's Station at Stoneclough, is now being carried out. When complete, it is believed that these extractors will practically eliminate the grit which has, in the past, caused so much nuisance in the area.

It is well to record here the willing co-operation the officials of the British Electricity Authority have shown towards the Urban Council in seeking the best method of abating the nuisance, and what delay has occurred in effecting the remedy is due to the usual Governmental procedure in which time is proportional to the length of red tape involved.

WATER SUPPLY.

The greater part of the water supply to the Urban area is from the Bolton Corporation. This is a direct and constant supply and is sufficient in quantity and quality.

The Irwell Valley Water Board supplies the area of Prestolee and Ringley with a direct and constant supply and this is sufficient in quantity and quality.

There are four houses, with a population of 12, in the outlying district known as Giant's Seat, dependent on well water, which is not a connected supply.

The following is a summary of the results of bacteriological examinations, chemical analyses, etc., supplied by Bolton Corporation Water Works Department and Irwell Valley Water Board:—

	Bolton Corporation	Irwell Valley Water Board
No. of bacteriological examinations of raw water	150	44
Results	Satisfactory with treatment	Unsatisfactory without treatment
No. of chemical analyses	12	12
Results	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Water going into supply where treatment is installed:—		
No. of bacteriological examinations ...	150	132
Results	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
No. of chemical analyses	12	30
Results	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Action taken in respect of any form of contamination	Action not necessary	All water chlorinated
Liability to plumbo-solvent action	From tests made weekly the water was shown to have no plumbo-solvent action.	Yes
Analyses for plumbo-solvent action ...	—	132
Results	—	Mainly satisfactory.

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(1)	By the local authority	46
(2)	By other local authorities	—
(3)	By other bodies or persons	13

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	72
(b)	No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	110
(2)	Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:—	
(a)	No. found during the year	16
(b)	No. (or estimated no.) at end of year	16
(3)	No. of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	56

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—

(1)	No. of dwelling-houses demolished during year:—	
(a)	Unfit houses	—
(b)	Other Houses	—
(2)	No. of persons displaced	42

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:—

	Number of Houses	Number of Persons Displaced
(1) Houses demolished or closed during year:		
(a) Housing Act, 1936—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	2	—
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force ...	1	7
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12)	—	—
(b) Housing Act, 1949—		
(i) Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 3 (1) and 3 (2)	—	—
(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953—		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10 (1) and and 11 (2)	—	—

	No. of houses.
(2) Repairs during the year:—	
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	64
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied—	
(i) By owners	1
(ii) By local authority in default of owners ...	—
(c) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16). Houses made Fit—	
(i) By owners	—
(ii) By local authority in default of owners ...	—
(d) Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954: Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	—

4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—

(1)	No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	—
(2)	No. of separate dwellings contained in (1) above	—
(3)	No. of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)	—

5. Housing Acts, 1949—Improvement grants, etc:—

Action during the year:	Schemes of Private Bodies or Individuals	Schemes of Local Authority
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	22	—
(b) No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected	22	—
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	—	—
(d) Work completed	18	—
(e) Any other action taken under the Act	—	—

6. Housing Conditions:—

Approximately 38 per cent. of the houses in Kearsley may be classed as old, 19 per cent. as medium and 43 per cent. as modern.

There are approximately 103 families in lodgings who still require housing.

Particulars of any housing scheme—

(i) In hand at end of years:—

Erection of 8 one-bedroom bungalows, by Contract.
Erection of 8 one-bedroom Cottage Flats, by Contract.
Erection of 12 two-bedroomed houses, by Contract.
Erection of 16 one-bedroom Cottage Flats, by Direct Labour.

Erection of 28 two-bedroomed houses, by Direct Labour.

(ii) Contemplated:—

Erection of 10 two-bedroomed houses, by Direct Labour.

AND POSSIBLY

Erection of 30 two-bedroomed houses, by Direct Labour.
Erection of 10 three-bedroomed houses, by Direct Labour.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

NOTICES

Forty-five preliminary notices were served during the year.

HOUSE REFUSE SCAVENGING

Statement showing the number of receptacles emptied during the year:—

Privy middens	4
Dry ashpits	3
Ashbins	186,453
Pails	137
Total loads removed	2,654

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at Singing Clough Tip. This method continues to be most satisfactory.

During the year, Salford Corporation started controlled tipping on land adjoining South Avenue; the reclaimed land to be used as a recreation ground for that part of the district.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The Sanitary accommodation of the district at the end of the year was as follows:—

Fresh Water closets	3,752
Waste Water closets	57
Dry ashpits	1
Ashbins	3,787
Pails	5
Privy middens	1
Privy closets	1

SALVAGE

The collection and sale of salvage continues to be successful. During the year under review the combined weight of salvage collected was 237 tons 5 cwts. 2 qrs., made up as follows:—

	T.	C.	Q.
Waste Paper	138	7	2
Kitchen Waste	77	12	1
Miscellaneous	21	5	3

The total value was £1,546.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Drainage is partly on the combined and partly on the separate system. The following summary shows how the sewage is dealt with:—

Sewage Works.	Method of Treatment.
Clammerclough	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Main Outfall, Kearsley Green ...	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Ringley	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Prestolee	Detritus tanks, aeration tanks, humus tanks and storm tanks.

At Horridge Brook and Unity Brook the sewage is lifted by automatic ejectors into sewers connected with the Main Outfall Works.

A new Board has been formed, known as the Bolton and District Joint Sewerage Board, but up to the present time no alterations have been made to the plant for the treatment of sewage.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS

The dairies, cowsheds and milkshops have been inspected on nineteen occasions, and their conditions were satisfactory.

During the year eighteen samples of milk were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary, for tubercle bacilli examination. The results of the examinations showed that seventeen of the samples were negative and one positive.

ICE CREAM

Six premises were registered for the sale of ice-cream.

Twenty samples of ice-cream were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary, for bacteriological examination, and all the results were satisfactory.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

During the year, the following food was found to be unfit for human consumption, and was voluntarily surrendered by the owners:—

56lbs. Haricot Beans.

12lbs. Currants.

4lbs. Cheese.

46lbs. Tongue.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The County Council is the authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

A total of fifty-one samples was obtained during the year, twenty-eight being of milk and the twenty-three others comprising:—

1 Cakes
2 Barley
1 mixed spice, ground
1 Ground nutmeg
1 Orange drink
2 Gravy Browning
1 Semolina
1 Syrup of Figs
1 Milk condensed, full cream, sweetened
1 Teething powders
1 Self raising flour
2 Fruit, dried
2 Soup, canned
1 Cod liver oil
1 Bacon
2 Christmas puddings
2 Marmalade

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine.

FACTORIES, WORKPLACES AND BAKEHOUSES

During the year forty-three visits were paid to factories and workplaces, and forty-two visits to Bakehouses.

The premises were in a satisfactory condition.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

There were no cases of bed bugs found during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

One man is engaged solely on this work.

Two sewer maintenance treatments have been carried out during the year, and both sides of the river bank, and seventy-nine premises in the Urban District have been disinfested.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT

1st January, 1955, to 31st December, 1955.

Visits to Infectious Diseases	9
Visits to Property Under Notice	269
Visits to Factories and Workplaces	43
Visits to Bakehouses	42
Visit to Shops	43
Visits to Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	19
Interviews with Owners, Builders, Architects, etc.	62
Inspections of Drains, etc., and Works in Progress	25
Housing Inspections	33
General Visits—no nuisances	1,239
	1,784

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